

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2005

SUPREME COURT FILLS VACANCY IN THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Monday the appointment of Edwardsville attorney Don W. Weber as a resident circuit judge in Madison County in the Third Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Weber, 57, currently maintains a private law practice specializing in patent and trademark work in addition to his work as an assistant Madison County state's attorney. He will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Phillip J. Kardis on September 2, 2005. Mr. Weber's appointment will take effect on Wednesday, November 2, 2005. By law, the appointment will terminate December 4, 2006.

Mr. Weber's appointment was recommended to the Illinois Supreme Court by Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier following a review process by a seven-member screening committee appointed by Justice Karmeier.

A Madison County native, Mr. Weber attended John Marshall Law School, where he was appointed to the Law Review. He subsequently transferred to St. Louis University School of Law, graduating *cum laude* in 1975. In addition to being a member of the Illinois bar, he has been admitted to practice in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and before various federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

After law school, Mr. Weber was appointed an assistant state's attorney under Nick Byron, and was elected state's attorney for Madison County in 1980, serving until 1984. He again was appointed to serve as assistant state's attorney in 1989 by former State's Attorney William Haine (now a member of the Illinois Senate) and served until 1991. In 1997, current Madison County State's Attorney Bill Mudge appointed Mr. Weber as an assistant, and he has prosecuted several major felony cases to this day.

Mr. Weber also was appointed to fill a temporary vacancy as state's attorney for Ford County in 1988. In addition, he won the Republican nomination to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court in 1992. Mr. Weber has been a member of the Supreme Court's Capital Litigation Trial Bar since 2001 and has handled over 100 criminal trials.

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“I’ve been honored to serve the people of Madison County for more than 30 years: as a Collinsville city commissioner, an elected state’s attorney and an assistant state’s attorney in three separate Democratic administrations,” Mr. Weber said of his appointment. “I am honored that I have earned the trust and respect of Justice Karmeier and the Illinois Supreme Court, and look forward to more years of public service as a circuit judge.”

Mr. Weber has taught trial advocacy at St. Louis University Law School, been a faculty member at the National College of District Attorneys, served as an Assistant Attorney General under Tyrone Fahner and helped author two nonfiction works that were New York Times bestsellers “Precious Victims” and “Silent Witness.”

The Third Judicial Circuit encompasses both Madison and Bond Counties.

The chair of Justice Karmeier's evaluation and screening committee was Mr. J. Thomas Long, Chairman of the Board of First National Bank of Grant Park and an attorney/CPA with Farrell, Hunter, Hamilton and Julian. Other members of the committee were Gordon R. Broom, a partner with Burroughs, Hepler, Broom, MacDonald, Hebrank & True in Edwardsville; William H. Hoagland, a partner with Hoagland, Fitzgerald, Smith & Pranaitis in Alton; Philip J. Lading, an attorney with Roth & Evans in Granite City; J. William Lucco, a partner with Lucco, Brown, Threlkeld & Dawson in Edwardsville, and the president of the Madison County Bar Association; Donald L. Metzger, practicing at the Law Offices of Donald L. Metzger in Edwardsville; and Robert J. Walters, Executive Director Emeritus for Southwestern Illinois Industrial Association.